

Peginterferon alfa- 2

peg-in-ter-FEER-on

Brand Name: Pegasys (2a), PEG-Intron (2b)

Drug Class: Opportunistic Infection and Other Drugs

Peginterferon alfa-2 belongs to a class of medicines known as antivirals. This drug also belongs to a class called biological response modifiers. Antivirals kill viruses or stop viruses from multiplying. Biological response modifiers stimulate the body's response to infection and disease.

Peginterferon alfa-2a, also known as Pegasys, and peginterferon alfa-2b, also known as PEG-Intron, are approved by the FDA for the treatment of chronic hepatitis C (HCV) infection, a common infection in HIV patients. It is usually prescribed in combination with ribavirin, another antiviral.

HIV/AIDS-Related Uses

Peginterferon alfa is used to treat chronic HCV in patients coinfecting with HIV and HCV.

Dosage Form/Administration

Peginterferons alfa-2a and alfa-2b are given by injection under the skin.

Contraindications

Individuals should tell a doctor about any medical problems before taking peginterferon alfa.

Possible Side Effects

Along with its desired effects, peginterferon alfa may cause some serious unwanted effects. Some side effects that may need a doctor's attention include anxiety; depression; mood swings; fever; continuing abdominal pain; bloody diarrhea; viral infection; trouble sleeping; irritability; chills, cough, or hoarseness; lower back or side pain; painful or difficult urination; nausea or vomiting; black, tarry stools; blood in urine or stools; pinpoint red spots on skin; or unusual bleeding or bruising. Individuals should tell a doctor if they have symptoms of any of these side effects.

Other side effects may not be serious and may lessen or disappear with continued use. These include abdominal pain; hair loss; loss of appetite; cough; diarrhea; dizziness; dry skin; indigestion; fatigue; chills, headache, pain in joints or muscles, runny nose, sneezing, or sore throat; flushing of skin; bruising, irritation, or itching at the injection site; general ill feeling; muscle or joint pain; nausea; aching, fullness, or tension in area of affected sinus; skin rash or itching, increased sweating; vomiting; and weight loss. Individuals should tell a doctor if these side effects continue or

are bothersome.

Drug and Food Interactions

A doctor should be notified of any other medications being taken, including prescription, nonprescription (over-the-counter), or herbal medications.

Clinical Trials

For information on clinical trials that involve Peginterferon alfa-2, visit the ClinicalTrials.gov web site at <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov>. In the Search box, enter: Peginterferon alfa-2 AND HIV Infections.

Manufacturer Information

Peginterferon alfa-2
Roche Laboratories
340 Kingsland Street
Nutley, NJ 07110
(973) 235-5000

Pegasys (2a)
Roche Laboratories
340 Kingsland Street
Nutley, NJ 07110
(973) 235-5000

Peginterferon alfa-2
Schering - Plough Corp
2000 Galloping Hill Rd
Kenilworth, NJ 07033-0530
(800) 526-4099

Peginterferon alfa- 2



Manufacturer Information (cont.)

PEG-Intron (2b)
Schering - Plough Corp
2000 Galloping Hill Rd
Kenilworth, NJ 07033-0530
(800) 526-4099

For More Information

Contact your doctor or an AIDSinfo Health Information Specialist:

- Via Phone: 1-800-448-0440 Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 5:00 p.m. ET
- Via Live Help: http://aidsinfo.nih.gov/live_help Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 4:00 p.m. ET